

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 922

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN, TH

SUBJ: UNFDAC PROGRAM IN THAILAND

REF: A) BANGKOK 11023; B) GENEVA 11021 (76)

1. MISSION APPRECIATES BEING ALERTED (REF A) TO LOCAL CONCERNS RE FUTURE OF UNFDAC/THAI PROGRAM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNFDAC APPROACH TO PROGRAM REMAINS ESSENTIALLY AS AGREED BETWEEN UNFDAC AND GOT, AND AS STATED IN PP 2-3 OF "A NARCOTICS STRATEGY FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA" (UNFDAC/1/19779. THAT IS, THE GOT WILL WORK OUT CONCRETE MASTER PLAN FOR TAKING OVER THE UN/THAI PROJECT DURING PERIOD OF ABOUT THREE YEARS; GOT WILL APPLY RESULTS OF PROJECT TO OTHER POPPY GROWING AREAS IN THAILAND; GOT UNDERTAKES GRADUAL EFFECTIVE PROHIBITION OF POPPY GROWING IN THAILAND. THE UNFDAC FOR ITS PART UNDERTAKES TO CONTINUE ITS PILOT PROGRAM AT PRESENT LEVEL TILL FEBRUARY 1978, TO GRADUALLY PHASE OUT ITS SUPPORT FOR PILOT PROJECT OVER THREE YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD (REF B), AND TO LEND ITS EFFORTS TO INDUCE OTHER UN AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS OR GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT MASTER PLAN PREPARED BY GOT. UNFDAC NOTED THAT FOR LAST ELEMENT TO SUCCEED, GOT WOULD HAVE TO ASSIGN PRIORITY TO FINANCING SUCH PLANS UNDER ITS DEVELOPMENT

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PROGRAM.

2. DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WELLMAN TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT WITHIN THIS OUTLINE, UNFDAC DECIDED JUNE 8 TO EXTEND PRESENT LEVEL FINANCING OF PILOT PROJECT UNTIL END 1978, WITH PROGRESSIVE CUTBACKS THEREAFTER AS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED. DECISION WAS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION OF FRED

MACKENZIE, UNFDAC ADVISER RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TRIP TO THAILAND, THAT PROGRAM BE MAINTAINED AT PRESENT LEVEL TILL END OF 1979, BY WHICH TIME HE ANTICIPATED UNFDAC'S FUTURE ROLE, PERHAPS IN CONNECTION WITH ASSISTING FEASIBILITY STUDIES TO IMPLEMENT THAI MASTER PLAN, WHICH THEY EXPECT LATE THIS YEAR, BEFORE MAKING FUTHER DECISIONS CONCERNING PROGRAM.

3. FUND OFFICIALS EMPHASIZE THAT IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG THAI MINISTRIES WILL BE IMPORTANT TO FUTURE INCORPORATION OF UNFDAC/THAI PROJECT RESULTS INTO COUNTRYWIDE SCHEME. FRED MACKENZIE NOTED IN THIS CONTEXT HIS RECENT ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION THAT WORLD BANK WAS DISCUSSING WITH GOT POSSIBLE FINANCING OF FIFTEEN TO TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR "NORTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT" WHICH WOULD ENCOMPASS SAME AREAS OF POPPY CULTIVATION AS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE OFR ANY EXPANSION OF UNFDAC/THAI PROGRAM. HE STATED THAT GOT MIN INTERIOR, WITH WHICH FUND PRIMARILY DEALS, HAD NOT BEEN AWARE, UNTIL HE INFORMED THEM, OF THIS PROJECT WHICH WAS BEING HANDLED BY MIN AG AND MIN FINANCE.

4. COMMENT. MISSION WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHETHER GOT IS SERIOUSLY ENGAGED IN PREPARING MASTER PLAN WHICH FUND OFFICIALS ARE EXPECTING, AND ALSO WHETHER MIN INTERIOR HAS ATTEMPTED TO INSERT NARCOTICS CONTROL ELEMENT INTO DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REFERRED TO BY MACKENZIE. IT APPEARS TO MISSION THAT HIS PROJECT MIGHT BE A NATURAL FOR INCORPORATION OF EXPERIENCE GAINED SO FAR BY UNFDAC/THAI PROJECT. END COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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